

THE

# REHEARSAL.

1. Safer to Speak for *Episcopacy* at *Geneva* than in *London*.
2. The *Whiggs* Blame the *Genevians* for not Understanding our Affairs.
3. They have Ruin'd our *Dissenters*, past all Retrieve. And made a Monster of them.
4. They have Involv'd themselves Inextricably.
5. They stand Alone, and are Divided from the *Kirk* in *Scotland*, as well as from all other Protestant Churches. They are Muzzel'd, that they Cannot Speak — But the Time is a Coming.

SATURDAY, February 15. 1706.

(1.) Country-man. I See, Master, by the Letter you told me of last time, That they can Write more Freely against our *Dissenters* at *Geneva* than at *London*. Shou'd any here tell the *Dissenters* of the Unreasonableness of their Separation, he wou'd Presently be call'd an *High-Flyer* an *Enslamer*, and I know not what — The *Observer* wou'd be upon his Bones the next Moment, with all the *Oyster-Women* at *Billings-gate*, and the Power of their *Rhetorick*! He wou'd be Scout-ed at *Elections*, Call'd an *Enemy* to the *Queen* and *Government*, and if he stood for any Place, he wou'd be sure to have the whole Interest of the Party Rais'd against him.

(2.) Rehearsal. It is well if *Geneva* Escapes, tho' so far off. What have they to do to Meddle in our Affairs? Is this a Time of Day for them to be Courting our *Bishops*, particularly the *Bishop* of *London*, to whom this Letter of theirs to the *University* of *Oxford* was sent, with *High Complements* to his *Lordship*, expressing the Great *Veneration* and *Esteem* they had for him? How little do they know how Matters go here?

(3.) But which is worst of all, they have left the *Dissenters* here to stand Alone. And instead of being their True and Faithfull Allies against *Episcopacy*, they are turn'd *Deferters*, and gone over to the *Enemy*. They have been *Hankering* a great while after *Episcopacy* and *Liturgy*, as near as they Can to that of the Church of *England*. Which it seems Gains Abroad, whatever Ground she Loses at Home. Mr. *Osterwald* has been Labouring this Point at *New-Chatell* and other Places, of which we had some Letters Printed here by *High-Church*; And now it Prevails even at *Geneva*. Which Dashes our *Dissenters* in the Teeth with the Testimonies of *Calvin* and *Beza* (some of which I have Quoted before) Heaping all *Anathemas* upon our *Dissenters* who do not submit to our *Hierarchy* and *Bishops*, *Omnimoda Reverentia*, with the Greatest *Veneration*,

and Calls such, *Nullo non Anathemate dignos*, Worthy of all *Curses* and *Anathemas*. And that they are to be Reckon'd as *Mad-Men*. So that our *Dissenters* are Deserted by All they Call'd their Friends Abroad, and Left to stand upon their own Bottom; which Cannot find a Precedent among any of the Reformed Churches. So Destitute is their Case! They are Excentrick from the whole Earth, and Contrary to all Men. They are *Ishmaelites*, their Hand against Every Man, and Every Man's Hand against them. And this is the Monster we have now to Quell. Which upon Every Blow he Receives Bellows and Roars *HIDEOUSLY*, and Thrusts out 100 Forked Tongues, which Spit Abundance of Venom, but not one Drachm of Reason. And if we Hold to him a little, we shall gain all Reasonable Men from him. For he has nothing left to say, and all his Pretences are Baff'd and Expos'd. He is Forc'd (at least Seemingly) to Confess that *Episcopacy* is a Lawful Government; And that ther is Nothing Sinful in our *Liturgy*, with which he Can Occasionally Conform. And yet Pretends to Justify his Separation, and to keep up a Schism upon this Account! And at the same time will Own, That nothing can Justify a Separation, or make it not to be a Schism, but to Avoid something that is Sinful. This they strongly Urg'd against those who Separated from Them, and Urge it at this Day against the Church in *Scotland*, to Oblige them to Come over to the *Kirk*. Not Minding how it Cuts the Throat of their Cause in *England*, Even by their own Confession, while they Own (for the sake of Occasional Conformity) That ther is Nothing Sinfull in our Communion.

(4.) Country-m. They are Involv'd, Master, they have Involv'd themselves, like a Wild Bull in a Net. And the more they Struggle, they are Involv'd the more. The Poor and Shifting Reasons they give for their Conforming to the Church of *England*, tho' but Occasionally; And yet keeping up a Schism against her, Renders their Cause ten fold more

more *Senseless* and *Deform'd*, a *Monster* indeed! And it is strange to me, how any Man that can *Reckon* his *ten Fingers* shou'd not be *Frighted* at the *Sight* of it, and immediately *Run* from it!

(5.) *Rehears.* There is a *Cause* behind will involve them yet more, if more can well be. And perhaps *Deprive* our *English Dissenters* of the *Advantage* and *Reputation* of being one with even their *Dear Brethren* in *Scotland*.

*Country-m.* Have you no *Mercy* at all in you, *Master*? You have *Disarm'd* them of all *Help* from *Geneva*, or any of the *Reformed Churches Abroad*. Wou'd you *Deprive* them likewise of all *Assistance* from *Scotland*? Then they will stand *Alone* indeed!

*Rehears.* The *Provincial Synods* of the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland* have *Abjur'd* *Episcopacy*, and *Enter'd* into *New Associations*, even in this *Reign* (which have been *Given* us here in *Print*) and *Engag'd* their *Lives* and *Fortunes* to *Root* it out, pursuant to their *Covenant*, as well in *England* and in *Ireland* as in *Scotland*, to which their *Covenant* do's expressly oblige them.

Now I wou'd *Ask* our *English Dissenters*, whether they are of the same *Principle*? As to their *Inclinations* and *Endeavours* when *Time* and *Opportunity* shall offer, I will *Ask* them no *Questions* at all.

In the next *Place*, their *Acts of Parliament* *Establishing* and *Ratifying* the *Kirk*, say, That the *Presbyterian Government* is most *Agreeable* to the *Word of God*. Then surely it ought to *Prevail*. And *Episcopacy*, must be an *Unlawful Government*, if it is not *Founded* upon the *Word of God*.

I desire the *Opinion* of the *English Dissenters* upon this *Point* too.

Lastly, (for this time) the *Commission* of the *General Assembly* in *Scotland*, have *Declar'd* against all *Toleration*, which they call *Establishing Iniquity by a Law*. And threaten'd the *Parliament* and their *Posterities* with the *Judgments of God*, if they *Granted* any *Toleration* to those of the *Episcopal Perswasion*.

And under the like *Penalty of Guilt* gave in their *Representation* or *Protestation* against the *Parliament* now, in their *Ratification* of the *Union*, allowing the *Parliament of England* to make any *Law* for *Confirmation* of the *Church of England*, as they had done there for the *Confirmation* of the *Kirk*. Which *Consent* of the *Parliament of Scotland*, if *Given*, they call *Homologating* or *Consenting* to the *Establishment* of the *Church of England* in that *Part* of the *Kingdom* now call'd *England*. Which they *Reckon'd* a *Great Guilt*. This *Representation* is *Given* Us *Verbatim* in the *Flying-Post*.

Now I wou'd *Ask* our *Dissenters* in *England*, if they will own themselves to be of these *Rigid Principles*? Not only against all *Toleration*, but giving any seeming or *Tacite Consent* to the *Establishment* of the *Church of England*.

If they are against the *Kirk* in *Scotland*, in the above mention'd *Particulars*, they are *Utter Enemies* to the *Kirk*, in what the *Kirk* thinks most *Essential*, and have *Sworn* to. And they are under the *Denunciation* of the *Kirk* to the *Heavy Judgments* of *God*, as *Bad* as the *Anathemas* which *Calvin* *Thunder'd* out against them.

And I suppose they will not think fit (at *Present*) to own all these *True Presbyterian Principles* of the *Kirk*. Tho' they own'd them *All*, and as *Volently* as the *Kirk*, once upon a *Time*.

But if they will not do it *Now*, or till that *Time* come again; Then till that *Time*, they must own *Themselves* to stand *Alone*, and *Separated* from all *Reformed Churches* whatsoever, not *Excepting* even that of *Scotland*.

*Country-m.* This is *Cruel*! You will make the *English Dissenters* (while they *Dare* not *Speak* out) the *Worst* and most *Hypocritical* of any in the *World*, *Abandon'd* and *Deserted* by all *Protestants*; To be neither *Fish*, *Flesh*, nor *Good Red-Herring*. They are *Muzzl'd*, they *Dare* neither *Confess* nor *Deny*! But they *Pay* it with *Thinking*. And they *Hope* that we may yet hear them *Speak* again!

And THEN.—

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